

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03024 170649 Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8123

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, XF

SUBJECT: EBAN ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JORDAN

SUMMARY: EBAN IN PRESS INTERVIEW APPEARING APRIL 16 DESCRIBED BEIRUT APRIL 10 RAID AS HAVING POSITIVE RESULT OF DISCOURAGING FEDAYEEN, AND NOTED RAID DREW LITTLE USG CRITICISM. HE CALLED FOR CONTINUATION OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES BECUASE TIME NOT YET RIPE FOR SETTLEMENT BUT STRESSED GOI MUST MAKE CLEAR IT HAS NO INTENTION TO STAY IN TERROTIRIES PERMANENTLY. EBAN PRAISED KING HUSSEIN FOR BEING READY IN PRINCIPLE FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL. END SUMMARY

1. IN LONG INTERVIEW PUBLISHED APRIL 16 IN YEDIOT AHARONOT, FONMIN EBAN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT APRIL 10 ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON WILL HAVE IMPORTANT RESULT OF LOWERING FEDAYEEN MORALE, AND IMPLIED THAT US REACTION TO RAID, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS MINIMAL, WAS AFFECTED BY US ANGER OVER KHARTOUM MASSACRE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 03024 170649 Z

2. TURNING TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, EBAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF UNWILLINGNESS OF ARAB LEADERSHIP IN TERRITORIES TO HOLD MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH ISRAEL, EBAN HAD CONCLUDED THERE IS NO WEST BANK NATION. BUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF LABOR PARTY REJECT IDEA OF PERMANENT ISRAELI RULE OVER TERRITORIES IN EBAN'S VIEW ISRAEL MUST STAY IN TERRITORIES LONGER, BUT MUST NEVER PROCLAIM AN UNWILLINGNESS TO LEAVE WHICH COULD INFLAME POPULATION AND DESTROY ALL THAT ISRAEL HAS ACCOMPLISHED THERE.

3. AS FOR LAND PURCHASE ISSUE, EBAN SAID IT UNIMPORTANT. HE REGRETTED DAYAN HAD EVER PUT IT IN HEADLINES AND ADDED US VIEWPOINT ON SUBJECT HAD HAD NO INFLUENCE WHATEVER ON GOI DECISION, AS WORD OF SISCO- DINITZ CONVERSATION WAS RECEIVED AFTER DECISION WAS TAKEN. IT WAS MRS MEIR'S OPPOSITION WHICH CAUSED MINISTERS TO WITHDRAW THEIR PROPOSALS THIS SUBJECT FROM CABINET CONSIDERATION.

4. ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEW ON LABOR PARTY DEBATE ON POLICY TOWARD OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, EBAN SAID HIS WAS CLOSER TO MRS MEIR'S VIEWPOINT. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND DAYAN'S ASSERTION OF ISRAEL'S BIBLICAL RIGHT TO WEST BANK AND HIS CALL AT SAME TIME FOR GIVING ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP TO INHABITANTS. ACCORDING TO EBAN, ARABS WOULD THEN MAKE UP 35 PERCENT OF KNESSET AND WOULD CONTROL ISRAEL, JUST AS LABOR PARTY, WHICH HAS NEVER ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN 38 PERCENT, HAS CONTROLLED ISRAEL UP TO NOW: AND ISRAEL IN GIVING INHABITANTS CITIZENSHIP WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW CONTROLS OVER WEST BANK. (NOTE. JOURNALIST INTERVIEWING EBAN PROBABLY MISUNDERSTOOD HIM AT THIS POINT. DAYAN ACTUALLY SAID ISRAEL HAS BIBLICAL RIGHT TO SETTLE EVERYWHERE IN WEST BANK, BUT LATER SAID IF FACED WITH CHOICE OF RETURNING TERRITORY OR GIVING CITIZENSHIP TO ONE MILLION MORE ARABS, HE WOULD OPT FOR FORMER TO PRESERVE JEWISH CHARACTER OF STATE.)

5. EBAN CONTINUED BY PREDICTING THAT DAYAN WILL EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZE THAT IDEA OF STAYING PERMANENTLY IN TERRITORIES IS IMPOSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH EBAN OBSERVED ISRAEL COULD REMAIN THERE LONG TIME AS LONG AS IT IS ON TEMPORARY BASIS.

6. QUERIED ON RELATIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN, EBAN SAID: QUOTE HUSSEIN'S CRITICISM OF, AND REACTION TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, HIS COURAGEOUS STATEMENT AGAINST THE MUNICH MURDER AND AGAINST THE TERRORIST OPERATION IN KHARTOUM CAN BE INTERPRETED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03024 170649 Z

MOBILITY RATHER THAN AS STAGNATION. I THINK THAT AS FAR AS THINK-

ING AND IDEOLOGY ARE CONCERNED, KING HUSSEIN IS MAKING MORE PROGRESS THAN ANY OTHER ARAB LEADER. I AM REFERRING TO HIS READINESS IN PRINCIPLE TO ACHIEVE PEACE WITH ISRAEL, THOUGH THERE ARE TWO MAIN OBSTACLES TO THIS. FIRST, KING HUSSEIN DOES NOT WANT TO BE THE PIONEER OF PEACE IN DEFIANCE OF THE IRAQIS, THE LIBYANS, THE SYRIANS, THE EGYPTIANS, AND THE PALESTINIANS. HIS DESIRE NOT TO BEAR THIS RESPONSIBILITY IN ISOLATION IS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE. SECOND, ALL KING HUSSEIN'S PROPOSALS, EVEN IF IN SOME CASES THEY ARE POSITIVE, LIKE THE FEDERATION PROPOSAL, ARE LACKING IN ONE THING, NAMELY THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT BORDERS AND THE REALIZATION THAT HE HAS NO POSSIBILITY OF RECOVERING THE OLD LINE WHICH HE DESTROYED WITH HIS OWN HANDS BY HIS UNFORTUNATE INITIATIVE OF JUNE 5. UNQUOTE.

7. AS FOR QUESTION OF ARAB READINES IN GENERAL FOR SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, EBAN SAID. QUOTE IF SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES SAY THAT THE ARABS HAVE MADE PROGRESS FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF BEING READY TO THINK ABOUT PEACE IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAVE NOT COME ANY CLOSER ON THE SUBJECT OF BORDER CHANGES, THEN MY ANSWER IS THAT WE MUST REGARD OURSELVES AS BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROCESS AND NOT AT ITS END. THE BEST METAPHORE I HAVE IS THAT OF A FRUIT. LET US MAKE NO MISTAKE: THE FRUIT IS NOT RIPE AND IF YOU PICK IT TOO EARLY, YOU' LL GET A STOMACH ACHE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG, THE FRUIT MAY ROT. UNQUOTE.
ZURHELLEN

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